efficiency. For achieving significantly higher production levels, technology upgradation is required.

(e) and (f) the company has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MAX-GB India for upgradation of the technology for manufacture of Pen. G in the existing Plant through a Joint Venture Collaboration. The Joint Venture is subject to approval of the Government which has yet to be given. The matter relating to the proposed Joint Venture between HAL and Max-GB is before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi through Writ Petitions No. CW. 3160/94,3161/94 and 3181/94. Notices in respect of these Writ Petitions have been received by the Government on the 5th August, 1994.

Steps to boost leather industry

*280. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian leather industry has tremendous global market potentialities;

(b) whether a large quantity of untanned leather from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh finds its way to the world market via. Nepal and this quality is known as 'Jirbut leather'; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the plans, if any, to boost the leather industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. A UNDP assisted National Leather Development Programme is currently being implemented by Government of India. This programme covers areas like human resource development, research and development, improvement in support services, environmental protection, enhancing exports etc.

(b) Intelligence reports indicate smuggling of raw leather from India to Nepal through Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Implementation of Kudankulam Atomic Power Project

2272. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of Kudankulam Atomic Power Project was discussed with Russia during the recent visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement this project in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) A very brief reference to bilateral consultations on the Kundankulam Atomic Power Project was made by the Russian side during the Prime Minister's visit to the Russian Federation in June-July this year.

(c) The Kudankulam Atomic Power Project was to be implemented in terms of the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) of November, 1988 signed between erstwhile USSR and India Consequent to the developments in the erstwhile USSR. discussions have been held with the Russian Federation during 1993-94 for implementation after making a fresh assessment of the economic and commercial aspects of the project which have changed since the signing of IGA in 1988.

Heavy Water Requirements

2273. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agreements have been signed with some foreign countries for the supply of heavy water during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the names of such countries with terms of agreement in each case separately during each year;

(c) whether some States and Union Territories have been provided such